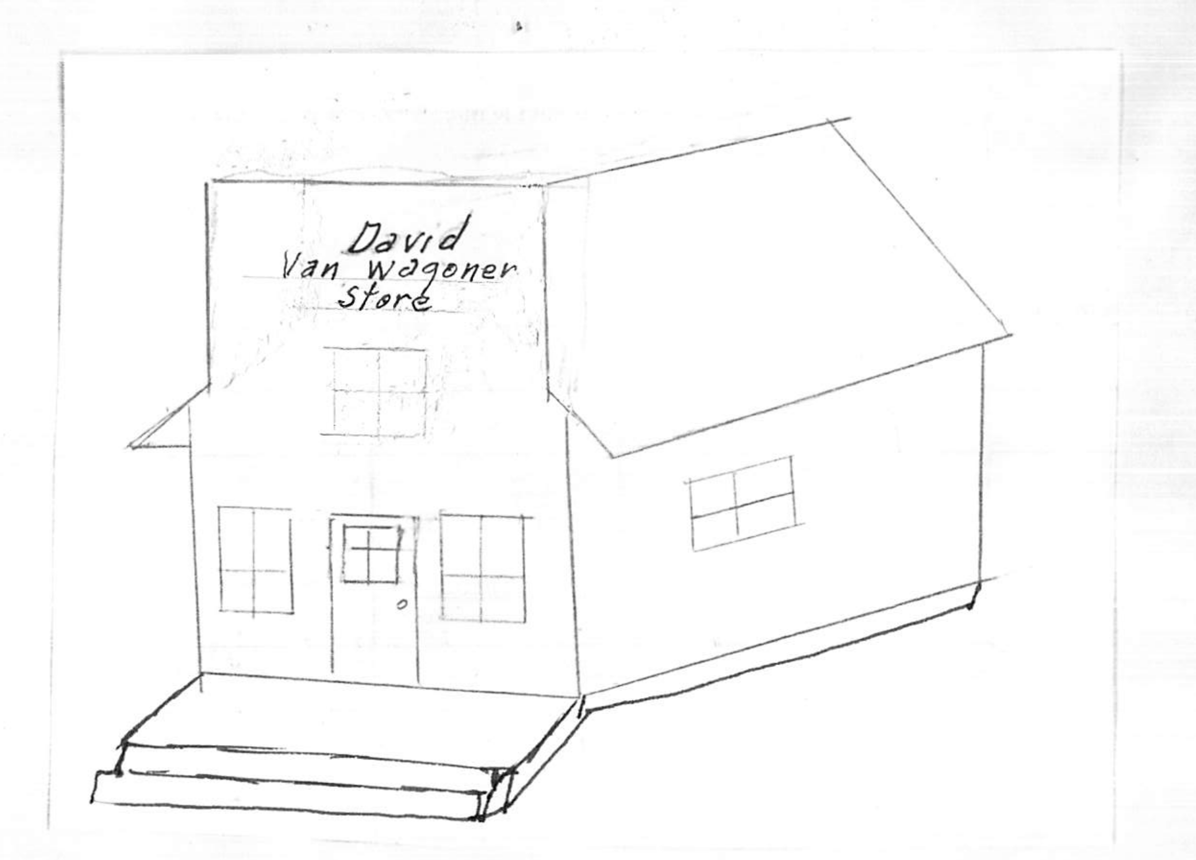
Bsp John Van Wagoner Store in Midway



DAVID AND JULIA ANN PROVOST VAN WAGENEN

David Van Wagenen was born July 18, 1836, at Pompton, New Jersey, a son of John Halmah and Eliza Smith Van Wagoner. He married Julia Ann Provost March 25, 1857. She was born March 2, 1834, at Newark, New Jersey, a daughter of Luke and Julia Ann Wheeler Provost. David died September 13, 1906 in Provo and Julia died March 4, 1917. David's mother died when he was seven years old. His father married



soon after, and his stepmother, Clarissa Tappen, reared him to manhood. After his father's second marriage they accepted the gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and moved to Nauvoo. They crossed the plains with ox teams, arriving in Utah in 1852.

They settled in Provo. He assisted his father in building the first grist mill, known as the Tanner Mills. He passed through the hardships common to the early settlers of Provo, subsisting on suckers from Utah Lake, ground cherries and wild segos. Luckily he had the first chance at the flour, being a miller.

March 25, 1857 he married Julia Ann Provost, a beautiful girl he had known in New Jersey.

He had great musical ability, taking an active part in the Provo band. He played the clarinet as well as the violin. He played for dances and entertainment and was very much in demand. Playing at dances along with his occupation at the mill, he succeeded in making a livelihood.

Their first child, Eliza, was born in Provo in a small log house on what is now 5th West and 4th North, adjoining Jasper Bird's present home. A son, David, was also born there.

Having an unsettled interest in his mother's estate, it was necessary for him to go back to New Jersey. He and his family journeyed by ox teams, a distance of 1500 miles, each way as far as Iowa. While in Iowa another son was born whom they named John after his grandfather. They journeyed back after the estate was settled and moved to Provo River Valley. When they returned from the East, they spelled their name Van Wagenen in accordance with the original Church records instead of Van Wagoner.

They arrived in the fall of 1863 at the mile and a quarter south of where Midway is now located. There David helped his father build the first grist mill powered by water from Snake Creek. He also became a cabinet maker, making bedsteads, cupboards, tables, etc., which were traded for anything the people had to trade. The bedsteads were not fancy, but were built for durability and as such had no equal. There were no springs or mattresses, but straw beds, feather beds and quilts. The women did a lot of carding and spinning for clothing, but there were no carpets.

After the settlement of Fort Midway the settlers were plagued by snakes and other pests. However, they felt they could control the snakes better than the Indians. Too, they could get $1.00 an ounce for snake oil from Salt Lake City merchants, who sold it as a remedy for croup and rheumatism.

David and Bill Wood hooked more than 200 rattlesnakes, and also obtained bark from the pine trees which was used for tanning leather.

At Midway, David Van Wagenen was a merchant, a selectman, justice of the peace, postmaster for 35 years, doctor for Midway and other parts of the county for which he never took a penny. He superintended the building of the Tithing Office. He organized the Midway Co-op, a general store, and operated it for several years. When the stake was organized in 1877, he was chosen the first Bishop of Midway and served in that capacity for 17 years. H[e] raised a family of 10 children to maturi[ty]. He moved back to Provo in 1895 and di[ed] there.

Julia Ann was born at Newark, New Jersey. Her parents were well-to-do. In New Jersey, they held a number of positions as county clerks, recorders, bookkeepers. They were of French descent and were well trained in their line of work.

Julia, with her parents, started west from Nauvoo in July, 1856. The father died on the plains. They started with an independent company. They were well-equipped, but their cattle died on the way and they were compelled to resort to hand-carts. Food got scarce and many times they had to boil the hides of the oxen for food. Julia walked all the way after the cattle died. She was 22 years old, oldest of the children. There were three young boys, her mother and one sister. They plowed through the snow about three feet deep. They would certainly have

David Van Wag
Store sold
to Mark W Jeffs
about 1901 p 356-7 HBUM
John Fortie Ran it 7
yrs to about 1908.
This Midway store
was then sold to
↓
about 1908

10 May 1869
24 July 1847
21 yrs 9 mos 16 day

16 Apr. to 10 may

p 357

David Van's store in midway sold to Mark W Jeffs about 1901 & John Fortie & Emma Jeffs ran that store

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Store sold again about 1908 to ?